Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) is an emerging professional field in which horses are utilized to assist emotional growth and learning, is a collaborative effort between a licensed therapist and a horse professional, and because of its intensity and effectiveness, it is considered a short-term brief approach; and,

Whereas, Horses have contributed significantly to South Dakota's history and culture as workers and helpers, and more recently, as healers and friends through their contributions in agriculture, rodeo, therapeutic riding, recreational and competitive riding, equine assisted psychotherapy, and equine assisted learning (EAL); and,

Whereas, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy addresses a variety of mental health and human development needs including behavioral issues, ADHD, substance abuse, eating disorders, abuse issues, depression, and anxiety disorders, and is also effective in working with all client modalities including individuals, couples, families, and groups; and,

Whereas, The dedication of these professionals and horses helping people heal and grow will be recognized on April 21, 2005:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 21, 2005, as

EQUINE ASSISTED PSYCHOTHERAPY DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize, encourage, and support the work of these professionals and horses.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State